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25X1 Marshal Tito

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25X1 1. Representatives of Marshal Tito met with representatives of King Zog in a three day meeting (28 - 30 August 1952) in the village of Saraj, located 10 kilometers east of Skoplje, Yugoslavia. The Yugoslav delegation was composed of Branko Milic and Colonel Cedimir Mijovic.¹ The Albanian delegation representing King Zog was composed of Satfet Lutfi Tozan, Avni Daralla, and Irfan Bey Ohri. The Albanian delegation flew to Skoplje via Salonika.

First Session (28 August 1952)

2. During the first meeting of the delegations, Colonel Mijovic was described as very morose. The discussions were opened by Tozan for the Albanian delegation stating that its mission was to seek a basis for collaboration with the Government of Yugoslavia and that its instructions were limited to exploratory discussions. Moreover, the delegation was instructed to arrange for a subsequent meeting between plenipotentiary representatives of King Zog and Marshal Tito. Ohri, speaking in Albanian, raised the question of Yugoslav recognition of the sovereignty of King Zog's Government (sic) and of the territorial integrity of Albania. He called the attention of the Yugoslav delegation to the fact that King Zog had deliberately abstained from participating in the political combinations against Hoxha regime, because the King is of the opinion that any active participation in a revolutionary attempt without the knowledge, consent, and cooperation of the Yugoslav Government would be an adventure that would cost the Albanian people dearly. (sic) The Albanian delegation, Ohri continued, has the sincere desire to discuss the problem of collaboration for the liberation of Albania from the Cominform. In view of the importance of such negotiations, the Albanian delegation on behalf of King Zog invites the Government of Yugoslavia to send plenipotentiary representatives to meet with the King. The King would agree to any time and place designated by the Government of Yugoslavia; however, if the meeting were to be held in Egypt, it would have to be held before the King moves his permanent residence to France.

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3. On behalf of the Yugoslav delegation, Milic replied that he was pleasantly surprised by the realistic approach of the Albanian delegation. He stated that his Government was in complete accord with the Albanian tenet that the basis for these negotiations is the political independence and territorial integrity of the present boundaries of Albania. Furthermore, regarding Greek intentions, Milic stated that current relations between Yugoslavia and Greece are such as to enable Yugoslavia to influence the Greek Government in renouncing all territorial claims against Albania. The proposal for a meeting of the plenipotentiaries of Marshal Tito and King Zog would have to be settled at a later date inasmuch as its discussion exceeded his instructions and neither he nor Mijovic had plenipotentiary powers. Milic added that he hoped for a quick answer from his Government on this proposal. He then assured the Albanian delegation of his Government's respect for the political independence and territorial integrity of Albania, and then brought his remarks to a close by suggesting that the Albanian delegation acquaint itself with the program of the Prizren Committee of the League of Albanian Refugees.

Second Session (29 August 1952)

4. Colonel Mijovic, who had been moody during the first session appeared to be in the best of spirits and revealed a fluent knowledge of Albanian. Milic opened the second session with the announcement that a reply had been received from his Government and that it agreed to King Zog's proposal for a meeting of plenipotentiaries. The time and place for the meeting would be communicated in the very near future. Milic then asked the Albanian delegation to express an opinion on the National Independent Bloc (Blokus Kombetar Independent-BKI) headed by Dr. Ismail Bey Verlaci son of Shefqet Bey Verlaci in Italy. Ohri replied that there were many capable persons in the group and that King Zog was inclined to forget their past sins.
5. Colonel Mijovic then queried the Albanian representatives on various Albanian political personalities, and he in turn answered questions put to him by Ohri and Daralla. Mijovic never failed to give detailed answers regarding each person named no matter how unknown. Mijovic asked Daralla and Ohri for their comments on the following persons:
- a. Gjon Markagjoni - BKI member and leader of the Albanian Catholics;
 - b. Kol Bib Mirakaj - former Secretary of the Albanian Fascist Party and Minister of the Interior under the Italians;
 - c. Muslim Peza - A General under Hoxha, well known Partisan and one-time collaborator of Ohri;
 - d. Lufti Spahiu - Vice President of the League of Albanian Refugees;
 - e. Colonel Muharrem Bajraktari - well-known partisan, now in Greece;
 - f. Bishop Fan Noli - now in the United States; and
 - g. Others whose names were not mentioned by source.

Ohri answered all questions regarding the above persons cautiously trying not to pass judgement on them or denounce them in any way. The Albanian delegation took note of the open sympathy and great interest shown toward the fascist groups especially by Mijovic who commented favorably on Markagjoni, Mirakaj, and others.

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6. Suddenly, Colonel Mijovic asked what King Zog and his lieutenants think about the Albanian Communists. Ohri replied that the Albanian Communists are close brothers to Albanians of other political persuasions and that King Zog has no intention of avenging himself against them. The King's only desire is to see Albania rid of the Cominform, after which the Albanian Communist Party and all other Albanian parties will be able to defend themselves freely before the court of public opinion.

Third Session (29 August 1952)

7. Milic inquired whether King Zog has an organization ready to move against Hoxha. Furthermore, he asked whether King Zog is receiving current information from Albania through his own channels or whether he might need information from the Yugoslav Government. Ohri replied, in the formal sense of the word, that the King has no organization ready for action. Moreover, he does not desire to establish such an organization until collaboration with the Government of Yugoslavia is fully established. Ohri continued, of course, the King has followers in Albania ready to act, and that a few dozen persons have been sent into Albania by the King. However, strict orders have been given to these people not to engage in any activity but to wait until the designated day so as to avoid the dangers of premature action.
8. Milic expressed complete agreement and open satisfaction with the King's views as conveyed by Ohri. He then excused himself from the meeting and departed that same night for Belgrade.

Fourth Session (30 August 1952)

9. This meeting consisted only of the three Albanian representatives and Colonel Mijovic. Mijovic became very friendly particularly with Daralla to whom he said: "We wish to destroy the Cominform. We cannot stand by nonchalantly with folded arms and watch events in Albania. If you cannot succeed in creating a revolution in Albania, then we will be obliged to take action ourselves. We would prefer, however, to see the revolt instigated by Albanians whom we will secretly and decisively aid."
10. Milovic was called out of the meeting and when he returned he announced that he had been ordered to leave immediately for Belgrade. As Milovic was leaving he stated that this sudden recall was a good sign for "the affair" and bade them a hearty farewell.
11. On 31 August the three members of the Albanian delegation returned to Istanbul via Skoplje and Salonika by air. On 8 September, Ohri and Daralla left Istanbul by plane for Alexandria, Egypt.
1. Comment: The Yugoslav representatives apparently used different names in their conversations with the different members of the Albanian delegation. For example, Branko Milic introduced himself by that name to Ohri and Daralla, but to Tozan he used the name of Branko Stankovic. Cedomir Mijovic introduced himself by that name to Ohri and Daralla, but to Tozan he used the name of Milic Sava. In conversation with each other the Yugoslavs used the names of Branko and Cedo.

Comment: Branko Milic asked Tozan if it were true that King Zog has lent large sums of money to ex-King Peter of Yugoslavia. Tozan replied that he did not know of any loans, however, he was certain that if such had been the case, there were no political motives involved.

The Yugoslav Government made every effort to create a cordial atmosphere for the meeting. The village of Saray was an excellent selection. The suites assigned to the Albanian delegation, the food, and the service were well organized and well managed. Each session of the meeting was held in a different room. The Albanian representatives were not permitted to lift a finger, nor did they pay any of the expenses. They were not permitted to exchange their currency upon arrival. The Yugoslavs attempted to buy transportation tickets to Istanbul for the Albanian representatives, but when the Albanians demurred, they insisted upon furnishing them with tickets to Salonika.

All three of the Albanian representatives were delighted and optimistic over

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the manner in which they were received and the conduct of the discussions. They all agreed that the Yugoslav representatives spoke with authority and that the substance of the discussions had received the serious consideration of the Government of Yugoslavia. In the minds of the Albanian representatives there is no doubt that the Yugoslav Government is sincere in its intentions to meet King Zog, and that they are convinced that a new era is dawning in Albanian-Yugoslav relations.

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